

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /097 W
----- 110504

R 170555Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9899

BNDD HQ WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2066

ALL ADDRESSEES FOR DEA OR NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SEIZURE IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA

1. SRI LANKA HEAD OF POLICE NARCOTICS DIVISION R. SUNDERALINGAM TODAY(AUGUST 16) CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF SEIZURE OF RAW OPIUM BY LOCAL POLICE IN VALVETTITURAI NEAR JAFFNA, IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA. ACCORDING TO SUNDERALINGAM, 14 LBS OF RAW OPIUM PACKED IN ONE POUND BUNDLES WERE DISCOVERED CONCEALED IN A WALL DURING CUSTOMS RAID. POLICE NOTICED THAT TAPS ON WALL PRODUCED HOLLOW SOUND AND DISCOVERED CAVITY COVERED BY BOARD THAT HAD BEEN PLASTERED AND PAINTED. UNNAMED PERSON ARRESTED WITH OPIUM WAS FINED 1,000 RUPEES BY MAGISTRATE'S COURT (MAXIMUM PENALTY UNDER CEYLONese DRUG ABUSE LAWS). SUNDERALINGAM SAYS OIC VALVETTITURAI POLICE TOLD HIM THEY HAD ALSO SEIZED EIGHT POUNDS OF OPIUM RECENTLY IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. SUNDERALINGAM QUOTES PRICE FOR RAW OPIUM IN JAFFNA AS RS. 750 PER POUND (US\$1.00 EQUALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RS. 6.2775) AND IN COLOMBO AS RS. 1,900 PER POUND.

2. COMMENT: VALVETTITURAI IS KNOWN AS "SMUGGLERS'
PARADISE" AND COULD LOGICALLY BE MAJOR TRANSIT POINT
FOR OPIUM SMUGGLED TO SRI LANKA FROM INDIA. SUNDERALINGAM
SAYS HE IS "100 PERCENT SURE" THAT THIS SEIZED OPIUM IS OF
INDIAN ORIGIN, ALTHOUGH NO LAB TESTING HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB02066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaaxfg.tel
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS SEIZURE IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA
TAGS: SNAR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005